

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the careful consideration and indication that claims 1-11 and 16 stand allowed and the indication that claims 13 and 15 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 12, 14 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 13 has been amended into independent form by including the subject matter of claim 12 therein. This amendment is not a narrowing amendment since claim 13 originally depended from claim 12 and based on the Examiner's comments, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 has been amended into independent form by including the subject matter of claim 12 therein. This amendment is not a narrowing amendment since claim 15 originally depended from claim 12 and based on the Examiner's comments, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: October 17, 2003

~~Respectfully submitted,~~

By

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